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## Hungary

## FAIRS Export Certificate Report

## Annual

## 2007

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**Report Highlights:**

This report covers export certificates required by Hungary with emphasis on specific areas not harmonized by the European Union.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/FAS (in Budapest, Hungary) for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

**NOTE: FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT

By the time of Hungary's EU accession, in May 2004, the country had fully implemented the health and food safety regulations harmonized across Member States. The last update of the collection of EU Certification is the 2005 EO Certification Guide (GAIN Report Number: E35010). You may find this GAIN or "Attache Report" through the website of the U.S. Embassy in Brussels <http://useu.usmission.gov/Dossiers/agriculture/> or through the FAS website <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp>.

In Hungary, the majority of agriculture and food export certificate requirements are handled and enforced by the Central Agricultural Office (MgSzH). This national office, under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), is responsible for the administrative and laboratory inspection and enforcement of most agriculture and food trade issues.

For example the Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate is responsible for live animals, the Food and Feed Safety Directorate for food and feed, the Wine Grading Directorate for wine, and the Plant, Soil, and Farm Environment Protection Directorate is responsible for the imports of plants. The Veterinary and Plant Health Inspectors serving at designated Ports of Entry in Hungary belong to the corresponding County Directorates of the Office.

Earlier this year the Central Agricultural Office was established by merging several separate institutions (see our GAIN Report, HU7001, Hungary Restructures Its Agricultural Administration). This is why some of the sub-offices still work at transitional locations and their website is not yet complete. See contact information of the Office in Appendix I.

## SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

For the import of animal products, EU harmonized certificates cover the majority of domesticated livestock and poultry, meat, and meat products. These requirements contain different conditions for individual countries of origin (or groups of countries), depending on their animal health status. Majority of U.S. live animal and animal products meet EU requirements.

For some special products, however, such as live game (for restocking), honey, etc. harmonized certificate requirements are not yet completed. To export these specific commodities, the Hungarian buyer needs to contact the appropriate authorities, listed in this report, for up-to-date information.

Unlike animal products, certification of plants and plant products is not harmonized in the EU. Phytosanitary certificates, issued by an APHIS inspector, are required to accompany fruit, vegetable, and nut shipments.

Hungary maintains specific regulations for the trade of plant genetics, namely fruit plant seedlings, grape vine seedlings, and seeds of sunflower, alfalfa, beans, tomatoes, and potato (bulbs for planting). The EU prohibits the import of grape vine seedlings from outside of the European Union.

Seedlings of fruit trees (shrubs) imported to Hungary from another Member country or a third country, must be accompanied by EU conformity certificates. If a "registered" certifier certifies that a shipment is from another Member country, the Hungarian authorities will accept it. If the Member country certifier is not an accredited one, or if the shipment is from

a third country (outside of the EU), the certificate must refer to the results of a prior plant health analyses required by the corresponding EU directives.

For seeds of the above-mentioned plant species, Member States use a "seed passport" to cover planting seed shipments between MSs. From third countries, the certificate must indicate the results of the required laboratory analyses. Hungarian certificate requirements meet those set by 2000/29 EC (Official Journal, L002 07/01/2003).

Hungarian plant health authorities accept third country (non-EU) certificates in the major languages of: English, German, French, and Russian

### **SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)**

Until the middle of 2002, all food products, excluding fresh products, had to be registered and approved by the Hungarian food-testing institute - OETI. The process was slow and costly, but the testing had to be completed before the product was allowed on the market.

Since 2002 the imports of new processed food items do not need certification but must be covered by a Manufacturers Export Declaration. This is a proof that the product meets EU requirements for wholesomeness and is adequate for human consumption.

The only group of commodities where mandated registration has been prolonged is the nutrition supplements for sports, slimming diets, and other "functional foods".

EU certificate requirements are part (appendices) of the corresponding piece of legislation. These are available in the above mentioned EU Certificate Guide (in English), and in the EUR-Lex ( <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> under "Official Journal ") in the language of all Member States.

The general principles for veterinary certification (Council Directive 2002/99/EC) outline that the certificate must be multi-lingual, issued in the language of the country of origin and the country of destination. If the country of destination is not the country where the border inspection occurs, a third language may be required. For example: a shipment from the U.S. destined to Hungary arrives to Hamburg, Germany (English-Hungarian-German). A Member State may, however, agree to accept certificates in an official Community language not its own. For transshipments destined to Hungary, but custom cleared at the port of another Member State, the Hungarian translation of a certificate is not required.

For direct shipments (via air or at border points from non-EU neighboring countries), the Hungarian translation of a certificate is required. This is because the point of entry to the EU is Hungary.

As explained above, EU Member State authorities may require multi-lingual certificates. In cases where U.S. agencies approving export certificates (see the list in Section IV.) have multi-lingual versions of these certificates available, they will be found on the U.S. agency's website under the information for the relevant EU country. In other cases, the exporter has the responsibility of preparing the multi-lingual certificates. Certificates must be prepared with the English portion and the other language side by side. This must be done either sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph.

The source of EU regulations ( <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> under "Official Journal ") contain the certificates, translated to the language of each Member State.

### **SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE'S LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.**

Normally, the text of the certificate indicates validity date.

In the EU, one (import) certificate can be applied to only one shipment. If a shipment, after clearance at the Port of Entry, is divided in parts destined to other Member States a copy of the original certificate will cover them.

The text of the certificate contains the title of the approving officer, required by the EU. Most cases it is a Federal US Government inspector. For some products (e.g. seafood), the inspector may be from other National or State organizations.

Following is a list of U.S. agencies issuing and/or approving export certificates.

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA  
  
European Union Health Certification Program  
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/eu\\_prgm.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/eu_prgm.htm)
- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA  
  
International Animal Export Regulations  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ee.html>  
  
International Animal Product Export Regulations  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/products/pr\\_ee.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/products/pr_ee.html)  
  
Export Services  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/>
- FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
<http://www.fda.gov/cber/gdlns/exptrcert.htm#iv>
- FGIS: Federal Grain Inspection Service; Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA  
<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/intl-services.htm>
- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
  
Export Requirements for the European Union:  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/euroreqs.htm>
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/trade/EUCONTENTS.htm>

## SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

The European Commission approves third countries having equivalent regulations governing the production and processing of organic goods. Products imported from non listed third countries (such as the U.S.) may be eligible for import if certified by a U.S. certifying organization approved by a Member State's Competent Authority. In case of Hungary, it is Biokontroll Hungaria Ltd. (Peter Roszik, Managing Director; 1027 Budapest Margit krt. 16-17. Tel: 36 1 336-1122; Fax: 36-1-315-1123; Email: [info@biokontroll.hu](mailto:info@biokontroll.hu); Web:

[www.biokontroll.hu](http://www.biokontroll.hu)). An imported organic product authorized in a Member State may freely circulate in the "domestic" market of the entire EU.

## **APPENDIX I. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES FOR HEALTH CERTIFICATES IN HUNGARY**

Central Agricultural Office (MgSzH)

Keleti Karoly u. 24.  
Budapest, H-1024

Deputy President for Food Chain Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Farm Environment Protection

Tabornok utca 2.  
Budapest, H-1143

Food and Feed Safety Directorate  
Mester utca 81.  
Budapest, H-1095

Plant, Soil, and Farm Environment Protection Directorate

Budaorsi ut 141-145.  
Budapest, H-1118

Wine Qualification Directorate

Bem J. ter 2.  
Budapest, H-1027

